



COMPARISON OF APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS

Introduction

The House Committee on Appropriations filed fiscal year 2003 allocations to its subcommittees on 25 June (H. Rept. 107-529). Those allocations – also known as the 302(b) allocations, for the section of the Congressional Budget Act that requires their publication – show how the Appropriations Committee plans to distribute budget authority among 13 spending bills that in the aggregate do not exceed the discretionary spending levels mandated by the budget resolution for fiscal year 2003 (H.Con.Res. 353).

The budget resolution in effect in the House largely tracks the President's fiscal year 2003 request for discretionary spending. As a result, it can be useful to compare the allocations approved by the House Appropriations Committee with the allocations included in the President's request and implied by the budget resolution. This comparison will show, in rough terms, where the priorities of the House Appropriations Committee track with, or vary from, the priorities of the President.

The table on the next page gives that comparison, along with differences from the request and the budget resolution. The figures exclude amounts held in reserve and not yet released – such as the \$10-billion war reserve – and include the outlay effects of the House-passed emergency supplemental bill (H.R. 4775), which is now in conference.

Analysis

The table suggests the following observations:

- *Defense Level.* On the fact of it, it appears the Appropriations Committee would spend about \$2.7

billion less than the President on defense (function 050). That observation is not yet supportable, however, because defense spending is contained not only in the Defense subcommittee's appropriations bill, but also in bills reported by the subcommittees on Military Construction, Energy and Water, and Transportation. Each of the latter three subcommittees is given an initial allocation higher than implied by the request and the House resolution. Until all of the bills containing defense spending have been reported, it is not possible to determine whether defense spending is at the level of the President's request.

- *Sequencing of Bills.* Bills scheduled for subcommittee mark before the July 4 recess generally have received budget authority [BA] allocations in excess of the request. The Interior, Agriculture, and Treasury-Postal appropriations bills are being considered in subcommittee this week; each of these subcommittees has received an allocation averaging \$685 million higher in BA than the level of the request.

The bill for the legislative branch, which the administration submits as received by the Congress, receives an allocation that is virtually at the requested level.

- *Exceptions.* Most other subcommittees receive BA allocations reasonably close to the level of the request. Labor-HHS and VA-HUD are exceptions. The Labor-HHS bill would receive \$313 million more than the request. VA-HUD would receive \$420 million less than the request. The VA-HUD allocation is worth noting: one would expect the need to increase that allocation, because the budget resolution avoided the admini-

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stration's proposed \$1,500 deductible for category 7 veterans. The \$1.145 billion in BA and \$1.042 in outlays for this policy was not held in reserve.

- *Outlay Differences.* Outlay savings do not appear to track in obvious ways with levels of budget authority. This seems to be the case for the Commerce, Justice, State subcommittee, the Foreign Operations subcommittee, the Interior subcommittee, and the VA-HUD subcommittee. This suggests that the allocations

for these subcommittees anticipate either of two options: 1) a greater proportion of spending for programs with low levels of 1st-year outlays; or 2) the use of techniques, such as obligation delays, that would have the effect of lowering outlays in fiscal year 2003 only to have them increase in fiscal year 2004. Because it is generally difficult to reduce fast-spending accounts such as salaries and expenses below current service levels, it is likely that some maneuvers will need to be used to manage outlays.

Comparison of Subcommittee Allocations for Fiscal Year 2003 (dollars in millions)

Subcommittee		President's Request	Implied Budget Resolution	Appropriations Committee	Approps less Request	Approps less Resolution
Agriculture and Rural Development	BA	16,837	16,837	17,601	764	764
	OT	17,533	17,533	17,907	374	374
Commerce, Justice, State and The Judiciary	BA	40,317	39,917	40,333	16	416
	OT	43,704	43,304	43,104	-600	-200
Defense	BA	357,177	357,177	354,447	-2,730	-2,730
	OT	349,249	349,249	346,110	-3,139	-3,139
District of Columbia	BA	379	379	517	138	138
	OT	375	375	581	206	206
Energy and Water Development	BA	25,115	25,115	26,027	912	912
	OT	25,344	25,344	25,824	480	480
Foreign Operations	BA	16,115	16,115	16,350	235	235
	OT	16,769	16,769	16,481	-288	-288
Interior and Related Agencies	BA	18,955	18,955	19,670	715	715
	OT	19,451	19,451	18,969	-482	-482
Labor, HHS, Education and Related Agencies	BA	129,589	129,589	129,902	313	313
	OT	124,133	124,133	125,701	1,568	1,568
Legislative Branch	BA	3,417	3,417	3,413	-4	-4
	OT	3,560	3,560	3,467	-93	-93
Military Construction	BA	8,947	8,947	10,083	1,136	1,136
	OT	9,848	9,848	10,058	210	210
Transportation and Related Agencies ^a	BA	18,834	18,834	19,411	577	577
	OT	57,984	57,984	60,767	2,783	2,783
Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government	BA	17,963	18,363	18,501	538	138
	OT	17,724	18,124	18,237	513	113
Veterans Affairs, HUD, Independent Agencies	BA	92,261	93,595	91,841	-420	-1,754
	OT	98,842	99,931	97,713	-1,129	-2,218
Unallocated	BA	1,045	856	-	-1,045	-856
	OT	-368	-415	271	639	686
Totals	BA	746,951	748,096	748,096	1,145	-
	OT	784,148	785,190	785,190	1,042	--

^a Does not include Mass Transit BA, which is not counted against the allocation. For the request, this amount is included in unallocated.
Source: House Budget Committee.

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